

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T SAIGON 3274

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

NOFORN

FOLLOWING MSG SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO USDAO/SAIGON 21 MARCH 1975

BEING REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE

S E C R E T DANANG 0269

EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

NOFORN

EMBASSY FOR POL/MIL

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MILI, VS

SUBJ: MILITARY SITREP - MARCH 21

1. SUMMARY: MILITARY ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT MR-1 DECREASED TO A RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL DURING THE INITIAL PORTION OF THE REPORTING PERIOD ALTHOUGH PROBING AND PRESSURE CONTINUED SOUTH OF HUE, WEST OF TAM KY AND SOUTHERN QUANG NGAI. DURING MARCH 20 AND ON THE MORNING AND AGAIN AT APPROXIMATELY 1200 HOURS MAR 21, HUE CITY WAS SHELLLED RESULTS UNKNOWN. ARVN ENGINEERS DESTROYED THE MY CHANH BRIDGE WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE GVN'S WITHDRAWAL TO

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THE SOUTH OF THE MY CHANH RIVER. ON THE MORNING OF MAR 21,

NVA/VC FORCES LAUNCHED WHAT MIGHT BE THE PRELIMINARY PHASES OF A COORDINATED ATTACK AGAINST GVN POSITIONS NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS. NEAR MY CHANH AN RF BN WAS ATTACKED MORNING OF MAR 21. NVA/VC ALSO INITIATED ACTION IN THE NUI BONG AREA IN SOUTHERN THUA THIEN PROVINCE. ELEMENTS OF THE 15TH RANGER GROUP AND THE 1ST ARVN DIVISION ARE ENGAGED IN PLATOON-SIZE ACTIONS IN THIS AREA AND APPROXIMATELY 8 KILOMETERS WEST OF PHU LOC DISTRICT TOWN. THE SCOPE OF THESE ENGAGEMENTS IS AS YET UNCLEAR.

SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS HWY 1 NORTH OF QUANG NGAI CITY HAS BEEN REOPENED TO TRAFFIC; SOUTH OF QUANG NGAI CITY TRAFFIC IS PRESENTLY HALTED DUE TO THE DESTRUCTION OF A CULVERT AND ENEMY ATTACK.

CONGEN ESTIMATES THAT REFUGEE POPULATION OF DA NANG MAY HAVE REACHED 300,000 WITH HUNDREDS OF TRUCKLOADS STILL ON THE ROAD BETWEEN HUE AND DA NANG. AT THE END OF THIS REPORTING PERIOD HUE WAS REPORTED TO BE RECEIVING INCOMING ARTILLERY, NUMBER, TYPE, AND RESULTS AS YET UNKNOWN. END SUMMARY.

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN GENERAL, FIGHTING DECLINED TO THE LOWEST LEVEL SINCE THE NVA/VC INITIATED WIDESCALE ABFS AND GROUND ATTACKS ON MARCH 7-8 ALTHOUGH ELEMENTS OF THE 1ST DIV AND 15TH RANGER GROUP RECEIVED PROBING ATTACKS IN THE NUI BONG AREA MORNING 21 MARCH. MARINE ELEMENTS DEFENDING THE PHU LOC AREA ALSO REPORTED SEVERAL GROUND CONTACTS. HUE CITY WAS SUBJECTED TO THREE SHELLINGS OF NINE UNIDENTIFIED ROUNDS ON MARCH 20 AND RECEIVED TWELVE UNIDENTIFIED ROUNDS AT 0705 HOURS ON MARCH 21; NO CASUALTIES REPORTED. THE STATUS OF ONE RF BN REPORTED TO HAVE HAD CONTACT WITH NVA/VC NORTH OF THE MY CHANH LINE IS NOT KNOWN. THE WESTERN DEFENSE LINE AND LOWLAND AREAS WERE REPORTED QUIET. AT 0845 HOURS, MARCH 21, THE ARVN DESTROYED THE MY CHANH BRIDGE. THE ROAD SOUTH TO DA NANG IS OPEN THOUGH HEAVY TRAFFIC IS MOVING SLOWLY.

3. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANG NAM (P), MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS AT A LOW LEVEL WITH NO SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS REPORTED. THE 468TH MARINE BRIGADE

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REPLACED THE 1ST AIRBORNE BRIGADE AT HOA KHANH, WEST OF DA NANG. THE 16TH MARINE BN REINFORCED THE HAI VAN PASS.

IN QUANG TIN (P), TWO ARVN REGIMENTS OF THE 3RD DIVISION CONTINUE CLEARING OPERATIONS IN THANG BINH (D). RANGER AND RF UNITS IN THE DUONG CON MOUNTAIN AREA REVKIVED LIGHT ABFS AND GROUND ATTACKS WEST OF TAM KY DISTRICT TOWN, WITH TWO PF PLATOONS REPORTED OUT OF CONTACT EARLY MORNING MARCH 21.

IN QUANG NGAI (P), GVN FORCES SECURED HWY 1 NORTH OF QUANG NGAI CITY, WITH TRAFFIC NOW REOPENED TO DA NANG CITY. SOUTH OF QUANG NGAI CITY IN MO DUC (D), NVA/VC BLEW UP AN UNGUARDED CULVERT ON HWY 1; TRAFFIC IS INTERRUPTED AT THIS POINT. AT THE CLOSE OF THE REPORTING PERIOD, QL1 WAS REPORTED CUT BY ENEMY ACTION IN THE VICINITY OF SA HUYNH IN EXTREME SOUTHERN QUANG NGAI (P). SCATTERED FIGHTING CONTINUES THROUGHOUT THE LOWLAND AREAS; NONE OF SIGNIFICANCE. I CORPS REPORTS 8,000 EVACUEES BROUGHT OUT FROM SON HA AND TRA BONG DISTRICTS TO DATE.

4. REFUGEES: CONGEN ESTIMATES THAT REFUGEE POPULATION OF DADANG MAY HAVE REACHED 300,000, WITH HUNDREDS OF TRUCKLOADS STILL ON THE ROAD BETWEEN HUE AND DA NANG.

FRANCIS
UNQUOTE
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